

REMARKS

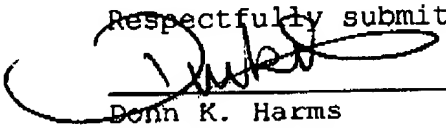
The drawings and specification have been amended to more clearly show the patentable subject matter of the device and to respectfully travers the objections under Section 112.

Claim 1, has been amended to more clearly define the subject matter of the invention as have claims 2,3,4,6,8, 14, and 19.

Applicant's device as clearly claimed in amended claim 1 has an ocular slot extending up both sidewalls to allow viewing of either of both eyes of the patient which is not claimed or taught by the cited reference which would be rendered inoperative in such a configuration. Applicant's device also is optionally positionaable in or out of a casing which the prior art fails to teach or mention. As such claim 1 should now be allowable as should claims 2-22 which depend from claim 1.

Should the Examiner have any further questions or concerns the Examiner wishes to address by telephone or otherwise, or should the Examiner have suggestions to more clearly define the subject matter of the claims to more clearly define the patentable subject matter, the Applicant's attorney would be most receptive to such.

Respectfully submitted,


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CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. A protective helmet apparatus for providing patient cranial support during surgery, which may be assembled from a plurality of cooperatively engageable components of differing dimensions for achieving optimum fit and pressure diffusion upon face of the intended helmet wearer comprising:

a cushion, said cushion having a front portion and two cushion sidewalls extending upward from said front portion, said cushion having an interior surface and an exterior surface;

said interior surface of said cushion dimensioned to accommodate the facial structure of a human being;

at least one cushion ocular aperture in said cushion communicating laterally across said front portion and continuing up both of said two cushion sidewalls, said ocular aperture providing communication between said interior surface and said exterior surface;

a viewing passage formed by said cushion ocular aperture, said viewing passage providing a view through said cushion sidewalls, wherein one of the two eyes of a patient wearing said cushion while in the prone position, may be seen through said viewing passage from a position adjacent to either of said two cushion sidewalls, thereby allowing both of said patients eyes to be viewed through said viewing passage.

2. The device as in claim 1 wherein said exterior surface of said cushion is dimensioned for cooperative registered engagement with the interior of a helmet casing wherein said cushion is interchangeably positionable to either one of a first position cooperatively engaged with a helmet casing or a second position with said exterior surface of said cushion supported on a mounting surface, whereby said cushion may be used either in said first position or said second position to provide support to the head of a patient undergoing surgery.

3. The protective helmet apparatus as defined in claim 2 further comprising:

a helmet casing for use in combination with said cushion, said helmet casing having a casing front wall and two casing sidewalls, each of said casing sidewalls attached at a first edge to said casing front wall and extending generally vertically therefrom to an upper edge of said sidewalls, said helmet casing having a casing interior surface and a casing exterior surface;

means for registered cooperative engagement of said cushion with said helmet casing;

at least one casing ocular aperture in said helmet casing communicating between said casing interior surface and said casing exterior surface, said casing ocular aperture shaped substantially similar to said cushion ocular aperture, and positioned in said

helmet casing to substantially align with said cushion ocular aperture when said cushion is in said registered cooperative engagement with said helmet casing, whereby either of said eyes of a patient wearing said cushion may be seen through the respective adjacent casing sidewall of said helmet casing when said cushion is in registered cooperative engagement with said helmet casing; and

means for removable attachment of said helmet casing to said mounting surface.

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4. The protective helmet apparatus as defined in claim 3 wherein said means for registered cooperative engagement of said cushion with said helmet casing comprises one or a combination of means for registered cooperative engagement from a group consisting of, said casing interior surface dimensioned for frictional engagement with said exterior surface of said cushion, adhesive, a lip positioned on said cushion in a position for operative engagement with the upper edges of said casing sidewalls, and registration pins affixed to said exterior surface of said cushion cooperatively engageable with registration apertures located in said interior surface of said helmet casing.

6. The protective helmet apparatus as defined in claim 3 wherein said means for removable attachment of said helmet casing to said mounting surface comprises a plurality of legs extending from the exterior surface of said helmet casing, the distal ends of said plurality of legs configured for cooperative engagement with a mount, said mount attachable to said mounting surface.

8. The protective helmet apparatus as defined in claim 7 further comprising a casing chin aperture in said casing front wall said casing chin aperture communicating between said casing interior surface and said casing exterior surface, said casing chin aperture shaped substantially similar in shape to said cushion chin aperture and positioned to substantially align with said cushion chin aperture when said cushion is in said registered engagement with said helmet casing; and

said nasal cavity communicating from said interior surface of said cushion to said exterior surface of said casing thereby forming a tube passageway.

14. The protective helmet apparatus as defined in claim 11 wherein said mount additionally comprises, a mirrored surface affixed to said mounting plate, thereby providing a means for upright individuals standing adjacent to said protective helmet apparatus to view the ocular area of the patients face reflected in the mirrored surface by looking downward at said mirrored surface.

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19. The protective helmet apparatus as defined in claim 17 wherein said means for heating the head of a patient is an electrical resistive heating element mounted on a blanket which is attachable to one of said upper edges of said casing side walls, whereby said blanket may be folded over the patients head when said head is operatively occupying said protective helmet apparatus.

23. The protective helmet apparatus as defined in claim 3 additionally comprising:

means for height adjustment of said helmet casing above said mounting surface.

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